

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-21 have been rejected. Reconsideration in view of the following arguments is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-4, 7-10 and 14-15 have been rejected as being anticipated by Zuberec et al. (USP 6,298,324); claims 19-21 have been rejected as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (USP 6,577,999). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that Zuberec et al. fail to teach or suggest a method of recognizing speech so as to modify a currently active vocabulary, comprising, at least: comparing said received utterance to a stored recognition vocabulary representing a currently active vocabulary; and dynamically updating the stored recognition vocabulary for subsequent received utterances based on said comparison, as recited in claim 1 and as somewhat similarly recited in independent claim 8.

The Examiner relies on column 5, lines 26-47 and column 9, line 1 to column 10, line 67 of Zuberec et al. Initially, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide the requisite specificity to reject the claims, since he has failed to identify specific teachings in these passages for each of the features recited in independent claims 1 and 8. That being said, a cursory review of the passages relied upon by the Examiner indicate that Zuberec et al., in no fashion, teaches of dynamically updating the stored recognition vocabulary for subsequent received utterances based on a comparison of a received utterance to the stored

recognition vocabulary. For example, referring to col. 5, lines 26-47, the speech recognition system 40 in Zuberec et al. has a default grammar which is used as the active grammar. The default grammar includes keywords and non-keywords which perform certain functions in an application 42. In a particular approach, the system may temporarily expand its active grammar from a default grammar to a balloon grammar that includes additional words. This is done by a detection of a given keyword (see col. 5, lines 40-45). Zuberec's speech recognition system also has a help function that offers help to the user by saying all the available words and phrases that the user could say (col. 5, lines 50-60). However, in no aspect does this passage teach or even hint at any kind of dynamic updating of a given vocabulary for subsequently received utterances, based on a comparison.

Referring to col. 9, line 1 to col. 10, line 67, these passages are directed to switching from a default grammar to a balloon grammar based on the detection of a specific keyword utterance, as shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 of Zuberec et al. For example, the speech recognition engine determines if a spoken utterance is a utterance contained in the default grammar 250 or if it is a help phrase (step 204). If it is not a help phrase and the user has spoken a specific keyword such as "place", the speech recognition system may temporarily expand the default grammar to include the additional set of utterances shown in Table 5, for example. This is not, in any aspect, analogous to dynamically updating a stored recognition vocabulary based on a comparison of a received utterance to a stored recognition vocabulary, but merely changing from a default grammar to a balloon grammar based on a detection of a specific keyword. Accordingly, for at least the above noted reasons, Applicant submits that Zuberec et al. fails to anticipate either of

claims 1 and 8, or those claims dependent thereon as set forth above. Applicant kindly respects that the rejection be withdrawn.

As to independent claim 19, Applicant respectfully submits that Lewis et al. fail to teach or suggest a method of customizing a recognition vocabulary on a device having a current vocabulary of preset voice-activated commands, comprising, at least “receiving an utterance from a user that is designated to replace at least one of the preset voice-activated commands in the stored recognition memory; and dynamically updating the recognition vocabulary with the received utterance, as recited in independent claim 19.

The utterance in Lewis is not designated to replace a preset voice-activated command in the stored recognition memory. As can be shown in Lewis et al. in the passage relied on by the Examiner, the Lewis et al. system determines whether a word appearing in dictated text has been corrected by a user. For example, such correction may be identified when the speech text processor is placed in an error correction mode and the user identifies an amendment as a word correction. (Col. 6, lines 23-31). If a word correction is identified in step 70, a quality metric is decremented and the acoustic model corresponding to that metric is downgraded or discarded. (Col. 6, lines 35-40 of Lewis et al.)

Incrementing or decrementing a quality metric to upgrade or discard an acoustic model has nothing to do with receiving an utterance that is designated to replace a preset voice-activated command in the stored recognition memory, as recited in independent claim 19. The Examiner has failed to identify where Lewis et al. teaches of receiving an utterance that is designated to replace at least one of the preset voice-activated commands in the stored recognition vocabulary. For at

least this reason, Applicant submits that claim 19, and those claims dependent thereon, are allowable over Lewis et al. Withdrawal of the rejection is kindly requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 5-6 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuberec et al.; claims 11-12 and 16-18 have also been rejected to under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuberec et al. in view of Hashimoto et al. (USP 5,632,002); and claim 13 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Zuberec et al. in view Scruggs et al. (USP 5,732,187). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

With regard to claims 5 and 6, as Zuberec et al. fails to teach or suggest features recited in corresponding independent claim 1. Thus, Applicant submits that claims 5 and 6 are allowable at least for the reasons recited above regarding independent claim 1.

With regard to claims 11, 12 and 16-18, Applicant submits that since Hashimoto et al. fails to make up for the above noted deficiencies in Zuberec et al., namely, that Hashimoto fails to teach of dynamic updating a stored recognition vocabulary for subsequent received utterances, claims 11, 12 and 16-18 are allowable over the combination for at least the reasons set forth regarding their corresponding independent claim 8.

With regard to claim 13, Applicant submits that since Scruggs et al. is limited in its teachings and fails to remedy the deficiencies set forth above as noted by Applicant with regard to Zuberec et al., Applicant submits that claim 13 is allowable at least for the reasons set forth above regarding its corresponding

independent claim 8. Withdrawal of the rejections regarding each of the dependent claims is kindly requested.

CONCLUSION

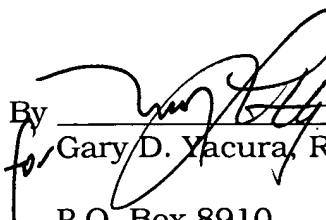
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the objections and rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-21 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Matthew J. Lattig at (703) 668-8026.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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